His Maiesties Letter

January the 24. 1641.

In answer to the PETITION of both Houses of Parliament, as it was presented by the Earle of *Newport*, and the Lord *SEYMER*, *Jan.* 21. 1641.

Likewise the Copie of a Letter sent from *Scotland* by the Lord *Rothes*, to the Lords Commissioners here in *England* for that Kingdome, being the Lord *Lowden*, and the Earle of *Lindsey*.

Together with an information of two Letters by some persons privately intended for *France*, which were intercepted by the way, and conveyed into *England*.

LONDON, Printed for *John Thomas*, 1641.

Harvard College Library
July 7, 1916
Gift of
Ernest B. Dane,
of Boston.

His Maieſties Letter

Ianuary the 24. 1641.

HIs Majeſty having ſeene and conſidered the Petition preſented unto Him, the one and twentieth of this inſtant, by the Earle of Newporr, and the Lord Seymer, in the names of both Houſes of Parliament. Js pleaſed to returne this Anſwer. That hee doth well approve of the deſire of both Houſes, for the ſpeedy proceeding againſt the perſons mentioned in the Petition; wherein His Majeſty finding the great inconveniences by the firſt miſtake in the way, hath endured ſome delayes, that hee might be informed in what Order to put the ſame; But before that that be agreed upon, His Majeſtie thinkes it unuſuall, or unfit to diſcover what prooſe is againſt them, and therefore holds it neceſſary, leſt a new miſtake ſhould breed more delayes; which his Majeſty to His power will avoid. That it be reſolved whether His Majeſty be bound in reſpect of Priviledges to proceed againſt them by impeachment in Parliament; Or whether He be at liberty to preferre an Inditement at the Common-Law in the uſuall way, or have His choice of either: Whereupon His Majeſty will give ſuch ſpeedy directions for the proſecution, as ſhall ſhew his Majeſties deſire to ſatisfie both Houſes, and to put a determination to the buſineſſe.

A Letter sent from *Scotland* by the Lord *Rothes*, to the Lords Commissioners here in *England* for that Kingdome, being the Lord *Lowden* and the Earle of *LINSEY*.

MY LORDS,

I Received a Letter from his Majesty by the Clarke of the Councell, commanding my immediate personall repaire to his Majesties presence for his Majesties service and my owne particular, as I can have no other particular at this time then what is concluded in the Common good of his Majesty, and this his ancient & Native Kingdome, whose humble demands were appointed to be presented by some of our Nation who were sent to his Majesty, by warrant vnder his Secretaries owne hand, so was I most desirous to have vndergone a share of that employment, for satisfying my earnest desire to have expressed humbly and freely that which I did conceive to be best for his Majesties

jeſties Service, but was ſtaid by the extreame ſickneſſe of my wife, on whom, a dangerous and deadly Conſumption had ſeized, that hath now brought her to her end, ſo I am not to enjoy her many dayes.

I muſt alſo declare truely, that I ſhall not be permitted to come at this time, and the Country in this time of trouble, which we are providing for the reliefe and aſſiſtance of the Proteſtants in *Ireland*, according to the Command of his Majeſty and the deſires and requeſt of the Parliament in England; I cannot with conſcience nor honour refuſe a ſhare of their difficulties, till it pleaſe his Majeſty to redeeme them.

IF the reaſon why his Majeſty hath ſent for me doth proceed from a Letter written about the end of December laſt to the King of *France*, which was intercepted, our whole proceedings in that buſines are truely related in this information; I have ſent with this Letter, whereto there are many witneſſes, all being done at a publique meeting and I am hopefull it will give his Majeſty full ſatisfaction concerning our carriage, which makes me from the conſcience of my duty to his Majeſty, here humbly begg pardon, for ſhewing that as the Subjects of this poore Kingdome, have beene extremely wronged by falſe reports to his Majeſty, and bad conſtructions of our Actions, ſo alſo to his Majeſties owne naturall propenſion to goodneſſe and juſtice much abuſed by them.

Let me by the moſt ſubmiſſive and hearty deſires that can proceed from an humble Subject,

begge that his Majeſty would heare the information here preſented, and then put to the Tryall both theirs and the contrary information; Hereby trueth ſhall be Diſcovered, his Majeſty ſhall have a faire way to eſtabliſh that which is juſt, to punniſh wickednes, to procure the vnchangeable Love of his Subjects; and the Bleſſing of GOD Almightie, which all moſt heartily deſire by your Lordſhips humble Servant and Freind.

ROTHES.

Ian. 15. 1641.

The Copie of the information ſent to the KING.

AFter the receipt of the proclamation made in England, immediately following his Majeſties laſt departure from *Scotland*, ſhewing the reſolution of his Majeſtie and his Parliament to ſend an Army into *Ireland* for the ſuppreſſing the Rebellion begun there, and to uſe all means for the defence of the Proteſtants both by Sea and Land, and hearing of the cruelties exerciſed by the Rebels eſpecially upon our nation

in

in that Kingdome we were adviſed to deale with the French King to interpoſe himſelfe with our Maſter, we reſolved for the writing a Letter to him, ſome being appointed for the drawing thereof the ſame was preſented the next day at a publique meeting of many of the Nobility, Barons, and Gentry, where ſome few ſubſcribed the ſame haſtily without reading, thinking it had beene reviſed by the whole, who were appointed and beſt underſtood the *French* tongue, one of the reviſers who had not ſeene it when it came to his hands, reading it, deſired it might be heard in publique and cleered, and that ſome expreſſions therein were not fitted and differed from the inſtructions, that draught was rejected, being the very ſame that is now in *England* in his Majeſties hands, which when it ſhould have beene deſtroyed was ſurrapticiouſly taken and uſed to our diſadvantage. Another Letter was appointed to be drawne conformable to the inſtructions which are vnderwritten, which Letters and inſtructions were ſubſcribed by a great many, but afterwards conceiving that any mediation from the King of *France* with our Maſter, concerning the difference betweene the Proteſtants and Catholiques in *Ireland*, could not come in time to hinder the extremity which was ſo neere, we are reſolved to retaine them both, and ſend no Letter at all. All this is truth, as I ſhall anſwer God, and can be verified by a hundred witneſſes, all being done at publique meetings.

My

My Lords,

I desire your Lordships that this information may be presented to his Majesty and the Parliament in England, which I hope will give good Satisfaction concerning these Letters, and cleare my innocency from any private designe or intention to side with the Catholiques in *Ireland* by sending privately to the *French* King, but onely to preserve so much blood as is daily shed in that Kingdome, and that my service if thither commanded, shall be faithfull and dutifull to my Native King and lawfull Soveraigne.

FINIS.